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## Early Childhood Conference



*Michael Brandwein - Keynote Presenter*

On Saturday, March 17, 2001, while the St. Patrick's Day Parade was stepping off in the Chicago Loop, south suburban early childcare providers were off to the early childhood conference at GSU.

This was the third year that GSU hosted the conference in collaboration with The South Suburban Association for the Education of Young Children, (SSAEYC) and The South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center, (SMRLC) at GSU.

The conference was well attended by participants throughout the region and also extended into neighboring northwest Indiana.

SSAEYC draws from the entire south suburban community. Those in

attendance included preschool, kindergarten, primary and early childhood education teachers, as well as childcare center staff and directors, family childcare providers, and parents. All participants have joined together to share in the work of offering quality care and education to young children and their families.

The early childhood conference offers professional development and plays a major part in a comprehensive effort to improve the quality of early childhood education.

Conference planners assembled a stellar group of presenters with a variety of topics that were exciting and quite impressive. The sessions ranged from music and rhythm and how it enhances the

cognitive and motor skills of young children to policy issues affecting children and families, lessons for positive parenting, and make and take workshops, as well as special needs topics. The range was wide, but all workshops were individually focused.

Exhibitors filled the Hall of Governors with educational materials which included books, tapes, puppets, toys and so much more to engage children in the learning process. Based on the crowds and by carefully examining potential purchases, it was apparent that the items being offered were well received by conference goers.

Dean Diane Alexander of the College of Education at GSU gave opening remarks in which she referred to the



## Early Childhood Conference - Continued



audience as the VIPs of education. "You are Very Important People of education. You are the care-givers, the educators, the voices of very important little people who look to you as much as they look to their parents for care, understanding, and guidance. You are the VIPs who wipe away the tears and bring the smiles, who wipe away the finger paint, express your joy in a child's work and bring the confidence that little ears hunger for; you are the teachers with hugs that little folks long for. You are the Very Important People and the very, very special people who hold on to the humanness of our world and generate a truly caring environment," said Dean Alexander with the deepest of admiration.

Dean Alexander also remarked, "The large attendance of early childhood providers reflected a growing interest in continuing education for those who care for

our small children. What a compliment to the care providers." Dean Alexander introduced the new provost of GSU, Dr. Paul Keys, who gave the welcoming address on behalf of President Stuart Fagan.

Dr. Keys welcomed guests by reminding them that they are in a field that is very important to the future of our country. He further added, "Quality early childhood education is one of the best investments that the south suburban Chicago region can make for our children's future." He described the audience as being capable and caring professionals at the forefront of the preparation for the future.



Michael Brandwein, the keynote presenter, did an excellent job discussing skills and techniques that help children grow to be their best. Brandwein has written and presented three Emmy Award-winning public television programs on communicating with and teaching children.

There were plenty of returning participants, as well as new participants in attendance.

"This was my first time coming to the conference. It was worth giving up my Saturday," said a participant. Other remarks were, "There was a good variety of presentations," and "The conference was very informative."

Overall, it was a well attended event that GSU was proud to host.



### Icons

@govst.edu will always report accomplishments that help GSU meet its mission statement. Look for these icons which will indicate stories that directly relate to GSU's four goals



Service



Teaching



Technology



Diversity



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March 2001

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Department**

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## BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

### We Will Continue To:

- Offer a quality, affordable, and accessible education to traditionally underserved populations.
- Do a comprehensive quality analysis on all aspects of the university's operations and use this to implement change.
- Provide academic degree programs that meet or exceed state and national educational standards.
- Institute university-wide quality control measures for academic programs and administrative functions.
- Attract and retain highly qualified and experienced faculty who are committed to excellence.
- Challenge students with an exciting and enriching educational experience which prepares them for successful professional careers.
- Enhance GSU's academic program offerings to meet the region's growing demand for excellent and skilled professionals.

## GSU-COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

  
Stuart Fagan, President

March 8, 2001

### To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to provide some balance to some of the recent stories that I have read in the local press recently about Governors State University and its accreditation issues. While these issues are important, especially to the students involved, they do not reflect on many other programs at GSU, and the quality education that GSU provides.

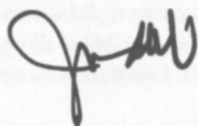
In the mid-1980s, I was employed by the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), but chose to enter the M.P.A. program at GSU. My decision to enroll at GSU was based on what I thought would be an exciting curriculum, at a small institution where the faculty and students care about their students. With very few exceptions, I found that to be true. I enjoyed my course work, and I was able to write my thesis on black political leadership under Richard J. Daley, a personal interest of mine. For almost a year I spent many Saturdays and Sundays in the GSU Library. There was a helpful and friendly staff, and I remain very proud of the finished product.

After receiving my M.P.A. from GSU in 1990, one year later I was offered and accepted the position of director of human resources at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The M.P.A. made that possible. In 1993, I was offered and accepted a position as associate vice chancellor for human resources back at UIC. Again, the M.P.A. made that possible. I am currently vice president of human resources at DePaul University, and an advanced degree is required.

I truly believe that GSU is an institution where you can "finish what you start." It is also an institution where you can acquire the academic credentials to go with your ability, your dreams.

I am a member of the GSU Alumni Board, and at our last meeting, one of our board members said that after more than 25 years in the military, he was told he was "overexperienced, and under-educated," when applying for a position outside of the military. Because of programs that GSU offers, that need not happen.

Yours truly,





Judson C. Mitchell  
Vice President, Human Resources  
DePaul University



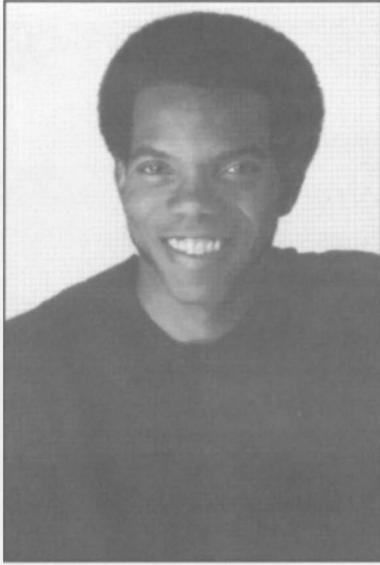
### Letters to the Editor

Below is the first of a series of letters that will be printed in the .edu on a regular basis. These letters have been received from Alumni following the first alumni reception and networking event that was held on campus in January.

The Public Affairs Department thought the entire GSU community would like to bask in the pride of GSU alumni.



## Chicago Poet Inspires GSU Students through the spoken word



Something very special happened on the night of Kwesi Dunlop's poetry performance at GSU on Wednesday, March 21 in the Sherman Music Recital Hall. At the front of the auditorium sat nine Black youths between the age of 14 and 15. Initially, they sat effecting the attitude of boredom exhibited by so many

of today's teenagers. However, as Dunlop delivered his poetry in a rhythmic cadence that highlighted an urban tableau of Black youth being lost to violence and drugs, the nonchalant attitude of the youth changed to rapt attention. "When things happen in America, I tell about it. My goal is to introduce America to its youth. Because right now America is not listening," said Dunlop in statements that introduced his whirlwind poetry recital.

The death of a younger brother in 1992 was the catalyst behind Kwesi Dunlop's decision to devote his life to empowering others - especially young people - through poetry.

Since that time he has developed a reputation as one of Chicago's most passionate poets, able to use compelling verse to take on a range of subjects from death to the healing power of love and forgiveness.

In reflecting on the tragedy of his brother Lemont's death -- killed at the age of 17 while trying to protect a friend -- and the

impact that it has had on his life, Dunlop said, "My goal is to empower others through love and forgiveness and to not let anyone become a double victim. We become double victims of tragedy when we don't let ourselves get involved in the community or get involved in finding ways to solve the problems that continue to harm us."

Dunlop's emergence as a poet of renown in Chicago is noted by a growing number of followers and a range of awards and honors, including being selected as the Best Spoken Word Artist at the Chicago Music Awards last February. The readers of *Spotlight Entertainment Magazine* also voted him Best Poet in Chicago in September 1999.

Additionally, he has read and performed with legendary poets, such as the late Gwendolyn Brooks, Sonia Sanchez and The Last Poets.

"Some people have called me a philosopher or a community activist. I am a poet who speaks on the human condition and all the emotions that we as human beings experience," he said.

## Young Entrepreneurs Fair



On Saturday, March 24, 2001, the office of economic education at GSU held its second annual Young Entrepreneurs Fair. The purpose of the fair is to celebrate the importance of entrepreneurs in our free market economic system, and to encourage creativity and innovation among elementary school students.

The event was open to students in grades 3 - 8. Students created a product, and developed an economic plan for production, marketing and distribution. They displayed their work and explained it to judges. Students identified a problem that held a product solution. They were judged on originality, neatness and practical application. Their business plans were evaluated on completeness, organization, accuracy and language mechanics. Awards were presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place entries in 2 divisions: Grades 3 - 5 and Grades 6 - 8.



David Dickey and Tyler MacLean proudly display their trophies.



Sheryl Gallaher, Director of Economic Education, awards 1st Place to Mark Grigoletti and Mickey Wiltgen - 6th Grade



## Focus 2001 Job Fair

On Tuesday, March 20th, the career services office of GSU sponsored the Focus 2001 Job Fair in the GSU gymnasium. The event attracted 65 employers and over 400 job seekers. Among the employer tables were the University of Chicago, Applied Systems, the Illinois State Police, the Museum of Science and Industry and the Drug Enforcement Agency. Jobs were available for accountants, computer science and MIS professionals, marketing, law enforcement, journalism and graphic arts in addition to many other opportunities.



The Illinois State Police coordinated their candidate testing with the job fair. After interviewing with the State Police during the fair, selected candidates were given the physical fitness tests. On Wednesday, March 21st, the candidates returned to GSU to complete the written tests and were fingerprinted and processed as State Police applicants. This is the second year that GSU and the Illinois State Police have cooperated with advertising police vacancies through the job fair and allowing completion of basic testing at GSU.



## Beyond the Virtual Library: Research in the Information Age



On March 9, 2001, the GSU University Library faculty presented a PQP session in Sherman Recital Hall entitled, "Beyond the Virtual Library: Research in the Information Age." PQP (Priorities, Quality, Productivity) seminars are part of a professional development program for faculty at GSU. This year's PQP theme is research.

The University Library presented their website, [www.govst.edu/library](http://www.govst.edu/library), as a virtual gateway to research for faculty and students. Professor Linda Geller introduced the session by explaining that library research sources are constantly changing in an online environment and how online databases are an improvement over past research tools. Geller reminded the audience, "In the last five years or so, we

have moved almost completely away from indexes in print and CD-ROM format, to indexes in Web-based format."

The library subscribes to more than 40 subject-specific online indexes, many of which contain full-text articles with email capability. The library also has 24 databases that include multi-disciplinary journals and specialized documents. All of these databases provide information that supports the curriculum and academic programs at GSU.

Professor Colleen Waltman demonstrated how to register and access the library's databases remotely, and Professor Paul Blobaum demonstrated some of the library's online services, such as interlibrary loans and e-reserves. In addition to becoming more familiar with library resources for research, it's important to consider the research and

information needs for students.

The presentation continued with Professor Diane Dates Casey showing the audience the online catalog and research databases, as well as the Web resources page she created for the Art Department. Professor Nancy Shlaes concluded the session with examples of instructional collaboration between librarians and faculty, including WebCT classes, online tutorials, and class-related Web resource pages.

By providing full-text databases, online indexes, remote access service, and professional expertise, GSU is prepared for doing research in the information age. The Website for the library's PQP presentation is located at [www.govst.edu/library/virtlib1.html](http://www.govst.edu/library/virtlib1.html).



## News/ Happenings

### Institute of Public Policy and Administration

With the hiring of Dr. John Swain, the IPPA has been reactivated. The IPPA Website has been revised. As part of an outreach strategy, Swain has attended and participated in a number of meetings of various kinds, e.g., Ford Heights meeting on its new economic development plan, various South Suburban Mayors and Managers meetings, and a Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) strategic planning meeting in New Lenox. Planning is underway for a series of IPPA workshops directed to municipal officials and for the 2001 Illinois Political Science Association Conference being held at GSU in November.

### CBPA/MMPA

Akkanad Isaac presented a paper, "Leadership Strategies for the Networked Organizations," at the International Roundtable Conference on Developing Leaders, Teams, and Organizations held in Delhi, India. Professors Isaac and Zafar Malik served as chairs of conference sessions.

In addition to presenting a paper, Isaac was an invited discussant at the International Workshop Curriculum in Development Organizational Behavior, held in Delhi. He also served as a discussant at the Workshop on "Emergent Issues in Web-based Education," organized by the Indian Institute of Information Technology.

### Dispelling Charter School Myths

This is the second in a series of panels to inform the public about charter schools. "**Charter Schools ARE Public Schools.**" The discussion will take place on Tuesday, April 3, 2001 in the Hall of Honors at GSU from 4:30 until 6:00 pm.



## Grossman to headline Violence in Schools and Workplace Seminar at GSU



David L. Grossman, noted author and expert on violence in society, will be the guest speaker at the "School Violence and Violence in the Workplace" seminar held at Governors State University on Friday, April 20, 2001 at 9:30 a.m in the Center for Performing Arts.

The seminar is sponsored by the Government College Relations Council (GCRC), a Chicago area networking organization that promotes government employment of college students.

Registration costs for the seminar are \$10 for students and GCRC members and \$30 for non-GCRC members. For registration information, contact GSU's Office of Career Services at 708-235-3974.

"The seminar is a must for those who are seeking solutions to the senseless violence and killing that continue to occur in our schools and the workplace," said Jim Opon, GSU director of career services.

Grossman is the author of the Pulitzer-nominated book, *On Killing*, and has written numerous encyclopedia entries on the subject of violence and aggression. His presentation illuminates the link between TV, movies, video games, and violence.

## The College of Business and Public Administration at GSU Hosts Honors Reception



The CPBA at GSU will acknowledge the achievements of outstanding faculty and students at an honors reception on Sunday, April 8, 2001, at the Matteson Holiday Inn, Matteson, Ill. from 4:30 until 6 p.m.

The tribute will highlight newly tenured faculty and winners of the Faculty Excellence Awards. Special recognition will also be given to high achieving students, including those who are scholarship winners, Dean's List honorees, high honors graduate students, and those cited in "*Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*" for academic achievement.

William A. Nowlin, the dean of the CBPA, will deliver remarks at the event and participate in the formal awards presentation to students and faculty.

The college has designed its undergraduate and graduate programs to prepare students for careers in business, industry and government. The CBPA offers its students scholarships, internship opportunities and study abroad programs. Additionally, the college offers day, evening and weekend classes on campus and at sites from downtown Chicago to down-state Champaign.



Dean of the CBPA,  
William A. Nowlin



## March Employee of the Month

Diane Nadler has been chosen as the employee of the month primarily for making significant contributions to the university. "Diane has been an asset to the University Library from the moment she rolled in the door. She is dependable, an excellent resource to the library, her coworkers, and our library patrons," said coworkers.

Nadler has taken the initiative to learn everything she can about the technology in the library. She has learned HTML programming and Webpage design and assists in training others in the library. She takes classes and learns everything she can in this area so that she can be helpful to others.

Nadler's coworkers describe her as very quick and efficient in assisting UL faculty members with anything they may need.

Of all of Nadler's contributions, one of the most appreciated seems to be her development of the full-text journals list. This list puts in one place all of the titles available as full-text in our online databases. This is agreed to be the single most useful resource at the reference desk.

Nadler has been at GSU for over 8 years and has worked in the University Library Reference Department the entire time. She



*Diane Nadler*

said, "I enjoy working in the library because I am always learning something new and meeting new people. The thrill of working in the library is in helping to solve mysteries. I enjoy searching the net and actually being able to aid a frustrated patron. I get to change their mood from hopeless to happy." Nadler's hobbies include gardening, traveling and watching rodeos.

## HELP FOR MS OUTLOOK



For those of you who are staring off into space at the new e-mail software, help is on the way. ITS is offering assistance for the technologically challenged. There are two different-styled training sessions taking place.

Productivity Point International (PPI) will host a seminar to present the features of the MS Outlook tools and answer your questions. There will be four more sessions, all offering the same material.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Locations</u>
April 10	9 a.m.- noon and 1-4 p.m.	Hall of Honors
May 9	9 a.m.- noon and 1-4 pm.	Hall of Honors

**Registration is not necessary. Please bring questions and be prepared to take notes.**

In addition to the PPI seminars, beginning April 4th through June 6th, ITS will conduct hands-on training every Wednesday and Thursday from 1 to 4 p.m. in the library training room. If your PC has been migrated to MS Outlook and you find yourself staring at the screen without a clue, please call Adalma Stevens at Ext. 2207 to schedule your attendance for training.

## News/ Happenings

### Civil Service Scholarship

The Civil Service Scholarship was established in 1984 for GSU Civil Service employees with at least one year of service. The scholarship provides \$300 to \$500 which can be used to promote career advancement, further education, and self-improvement for themselves, their spouses and dependent children.

Applications and information sheets detailing qualifications for eligibility are available in the Human Resources Office.

The deadline for the receipt of the application and other required materials for spring/summer is April 23, 2001.

### 2001 Lecture Series

The Professional Enrichment and Wellness program presents, "The Other Side of Retirement Planning."

Cheri Seley will be the facilitator on April 20, 2001, from 11 a.m. - Noon. She will discuss how everyone looks forward to retirement but how it may not be as easy as you thought. She will share ways to make the transition a smooth process.

### Communications Services produces DCFS training videos

GSU is currently working on three Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) projects that will result in five products for various training curricula: an ethics video, a foundation training video, and a pediatrics trauma video.

Being nationally known for work done in Communications Services is how GSU landed the contract with DCFS. With the reputation of distance learning technology, GSU produces training videos for DCFS that are used in support of classroom training.

These videos can be used by any population that DCFS is mandated to train. This could include DCFS employees as well as private agencies who are closely tied to DCFS.



# Meet...Wanda Bracy



In September 2000, GSU hired Dr. Wanda D. Bracy as the new director of the master of social work program and division chair for health administration and human services.

Dr. Bracy is a highly qualified and experienced social work educator and researcher with demonstrated expertise in educational and administrative leadership.

Bracy has an Ed.D. in adult and continuing education from Northern Illinois University and a master's in social work from the University of Illinois at Chicago, Jane Addams College of Social Work. Additionally she holds graduate degrees in sociology and education from Roosevelt University.

Bracy has a wealth of experience in the accreditation arena beginning in 1988 when she helped to secure the accreditation status for the undergraduate social work program at Northeastern Illinois University. As the department head of the social work program



at Eastern Michigan University, Bracy successfully led the accreditation reaffirmation process for the program's undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Additionally, for the past decade, she has reviewed numerous social work education programs across the country in her role as an accreditation site team chair. Bracy also has served as a consultant for social work education programs nationwide, assisting them in achieving accreditation status.

Dr. Bracy is a former chair of the Commission on Conferences and Faculty Development for the Council on Social Work Education. "In that role I facilitated the visioning process, helped to shape the ideas of the group into manageable tasks and followed through on implementation. I am very adept in knowing just when to move a group from the process phase to task phase in developing and shaping ideas," Dr. Bracy said.



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